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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

OFFICE OF ECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, AND ADMINISTRATION

February 8, 2005

Milford Wayne Donaldson, SHPO
Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Re: **Finding of No Historic Properties Affected**
STB Docket No. AB-874X, Sierra Northern Railway – Abandonment
Exemption – in Yolo County, CA

Dear Mr. Donaldson,

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is writing you regarding our No Historic Properties Affected determination for the proceeding in STB Docket No. AB-874X, Sierra Northern Railway - Abandonment Exemption - in Yolo County, CA.

Based on all the details of this project, SEA has determined that the proposed rail abandonment would not affect historic properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) located within the area of potential effect (APE)¹ for this undertaking. Therefore, the Board finds that there are **No Historic Properties Affected** for this undertaking in accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1). Please inform SEA within the 30 day specified time frame if you object to this finding.

Background

Sierra Northern Railway (Sierra) filed a notice of exemption with the Board seeking its approval authority to abandon 9.27 miles of rail line in Yolo County, California. The Board's approval of the abandonment is considered an undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) and is thus covered under its provisions. Subsequent to Sierra's initial filing with the Board, the railroad reached an agreement with the City of Sacramento for a trails use agreement on the line.²

SEA completed an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed project pursuant to

¹ The APE consist of the rail line right-of-way and a maximum of 60 feet on either side.

² A trails use agreement, in effect, postpones abandonment of the line until such time that the provisions of the agreement are terminated.